

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/532,084
Amendment filed May 30, 2006
Reply to OA dated February 28, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-20 are presented for examination. Claims 10 and 19 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention.

The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **February 28, 2006**.

Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 10, when the total B, C, D components are used in amount of 51 wt% and minimum amount of component A is 50 wt%, the total exceeds 100 wt%.

Claim 10 has been amended to limit the total percentage of (A), (B), (C), and (D) as being 100%.

It is respectfully requested that this objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 7 are objected to because the two claims are identically presented.

Claim 7 has been cancelled.

It is respectfully requested that this objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 and 8-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in light of Okumura, et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0055030) in view of Hendershot, et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,441,060), Hefner, Jr., et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,618,658), and Nagasawa, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,205,018).

Okumura discloses a separator for solid polymer-type fuel cell produced by molding the resin composition which comprises an electroconductive agent and a radical-polymerizable thermosetting resin system by a resin molding method. (**Okumura**, Abstract). The Office Action concedes that the primary reference, **Okumura**, does not teach a urethane-modified epoxy (meth)acrylate resin. However, in the present invention recited in claim 1, urethane-modified epoxy (meth)acrylate is a key ingredient of the claimed composition. Accordingly, Examples 1 to 6 and Comparative Examples clearly show that the results obtained and displayed in Table 3 require the component of urethane methacrylate. (Specification, p.31).

Hendershot, Nagasawa, and Hefner, Jr., are cited for the disclosure of a urethanized epoxy resin. However, none of the secondary references disclose a urethanized epoxy resin in relation to a separator for a fuel cell. In fact, **Hendershot** discloses a foundry binder of epoxy resin, acrylated polyisocyanate, and acrylic; **Hefner, Jr.**, discloses a polymer modified epoxy resin compositions;

and, **Nagasawa** discloses radiation curable resin composition; all unrelated to the art of a separator for a fuel cell. Consequently, according to Federal Circuit standards, there is incomplete teaching in the primary reference because **Okumura** fails to teach the component of a urethane-modified epoxy (meth)acrylate resin, and no suggestion or motivation to combine isolated disclosures of urethanized epoxy resin from an unrelated art to supply the missing component to the teachings of **Okumura**

Okumura, Hendershot, Nagasawa, and Hefner, Jr. in combination fail to teach or suggest the present invention recited in claim 1-4 and 8-20 because the primary reference does not teach or suggest a key ingredient of the claimed composition - urethane-modified epoxy (meth)acrylate resin - and the secondary references fail to suggest or motivate combining the references because the references are unrelated and involve different fields.

It is respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okumura in view of Hendershot, Hefner, Jr., Nagasawa, and further in view of Toshiro, et al. (JP 03-199230).

Claim 7 has been cancelled.

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For the reasons discussed above, **Okumura , Hendershot, Hefner, Jr., Nagasawa, and Toshiro** in combination fail to teach or suggest the present invention recited in claim 5.

It is respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okumura in view of Hendershot, Hefner, Jr., Nagasawa, and further in view of Takeshi, et al. (JP 2000-351843).

For the reasons discussed above, **Okumura, Hendershot, Hefner, Jr., Nagasawa, and Takeshi** in combination fail to teach or suggest the present invention recited in claim 6.

It is respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

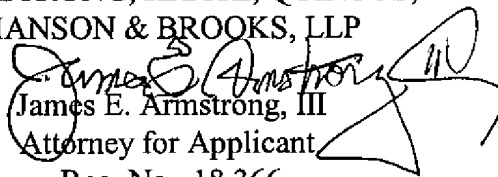
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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